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82D CONGRESS, 1st Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 640

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RELATING TO AMOUNTS CERTAIN LOCAL SCHOOL AGENCIES MAY RECEIVE FOR SCHOOL-CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES

AUGUST 15 (legislative day, AUGUST 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HILL, from the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 703]

The Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, to whom was referred Senate bill 703, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment, and recommend that the bill, as reported, do pass.

S. 703 is a bill to provide that, in the determination of the amount which certain local educational agencies are entitled to receive for school-construction purposes, no reduction in such amount shall be made for prior construction under the WPA, PWA, and NYA programs.

Public Law 815, approved September 23, 1950, authorizes the appropriation of funds for construction of school facilities in areas affected by Federal activities. Under the provisions of that act the entitlement of local schools and educational agencies for Federal aid in the construction of school facilities is reduced by the value of any schools completed in the area after June 30, 1939, with Federal assistance. S. 703 would prohibit this deduction of the present value of any school-construction projects completed under the Work Projects Administration, Public Works Administration, and National Youth Administration programs after June 30, 1939. It has been clearly shown that while a number of these WPA, PWA, and NYA projects were completed prior to June 30, 1939, nevertheless a substantial number, although started before this date, were not completed until after June 30, 1939.

Insofar as school construction is concerned, the purposes of the WPA, PWA, and NYA programs were to provide schools to meet the general needs of the community. Public Law 815 is designed to meet needs which result only from Federal activities. Thus, the schools

provided under the three "depression programs" were for all children and not merely for those children for whom the Federal Government might have special responsibility. Therefore, the committee feels that it is inequitable, in determining the present entitlement of these schools and educational agencies to Federal aid, to deduct for the value of schools built under these three programs merely because they were not completed until after June 30, 1939.

The committee therefore unanimously recommends that the bill (S. 703) be enacted.

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